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3°. and lastly, when the thorns become covered with a thick crust of sulphate of lime, they form a solid mass, the graduation does not go on well, and the shed is in very great danger of being blown down the first storm of wind.

The rope shed is then, in every respect, preferable to those with taggots. It has as yet not been employed in any salt work but that of Moutiers. Experience also confirms this theory, and has shewn that with a shed of the same size, twice as much brine can be evaporated by the former as by the latter. Its only defect is, that it is expensive to erect (that at Moutiers cost 30,000 francs, or 1250*l.*) but it appears that it did not require much repairing. At present, it is not used to graduate weak brine for fear the cords should rot too fast; but it is probable that a varnish might be prepared which would cover them and preserve them from this destruction.

In the present state of affairs, which does not admit of the purification of the graduated brine, the management of the fire is properly conducted. A brisk fire is necessary at first because less fuel is consumed by it, in evaporating the same quantity of water, than with a small fire; it also gets through the evaporation quicker, and separates along with the schelots, &c. about a fifth of the sulphate of soda, which probably would not happen if the evaporation were conducted slowly by a low temperature. Indeed, it occasions a loss of about 1-45th of the muriate of soda, which goes off along with the schelot and scales; but this inconveniency depends upon the impurity of the brine. When the schelot is separated, a small fire becomes indispensable in order to separate the greatest part of the muriate and of the sulphate of magnesia which is left in the mother water, and which

would crystallise along with the muriate of soda if the boiling were continued.

It may be seen by the analysis of the products as given in this paper, that the precipitation of the sulphate of soda diminishes considerably immediately after the schelotage, that it afterwards augments gradually on account of the water being saturated with it, and that it is entirely separated before the evaporation is ended. The last made salt contains only sulphate of magnesia; that made towards the latter end of a boiling contains besides this 1-10th of its weight of sulphate of soda. The mixt salt must contain at least as much of foreign matters.

It follows from this, that the attraction of the different salts is considerably augmented by the temperature, and that the mixture of them when they are precipitated, depends much more on the heat employed in the evaporation, than on its promptitude; so that the collection of the salt upon the ropes yields a much purer salt than that of the boilers, although it is made in one fourth or fifth of the time.

This method, besides the advantage of saving one half of the fuel, is therefore to be recommended for the treatment of brine containing several salts; but in this case care must be taken to raise a large quantity of brine at a time, and to stop the evaporation at the precise moment when the foreign salts begin to precipitate in too large a proportion. This point of time is usually indicated by the appearance which the brine assumes. It becomes thick, viscous, and what is called fat, the mixt salts that it contains deliquesce on account of the muriate of magnesia being among them, and will not crystallise, but yield only a saline mass which is very difficultly dried.

To be Contin. ed.

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"NEITHER to inflame, nor to lull into apathy," was our original promise. How far we have fulfilled our pledge, we leave to be determined by the pages of our Political Retrospect. It has not been our aim to introduce declamation on imaginary grievances, but to give from time to time a dispassionate view of the alarming situation in which we are placed, and to lend our aid to rouse, if possible, the people to a sense of the awful crisis, which is impending. For the more fully our situation is previously contemplated, the better we shall be prepared to choose the proper line for acting, when the crisis shall arrive. Forewarned of the danger, we are in a better state to prepare for safety. Those who are the most confident in fancied prosperity are generally the most alarmed and timid in the hour of danger, while foresight and a prudent anticipation of the future, prepare for the danger, and prevent the despair which often follows an improvident and thoughtless security. To reform, we are decidedly friendly. Things have arrived at that state, that reform must take place. The friends of peace and stability earnestly desire it may be brought about by peaceable means, and by a more general illumination of the public mind, lest "the reform with a vengeance," predicted by the great Lord Chatham should overwhelm us in common ruin. It has been the aim of the Political Retrospect to inspire a high toned morality, and point out virtue, as the proper basis of all reform, and especially to show, that the people to insure virtue in their

governors, must themselves be virtuous. Politics are too seldom contemplated in this point of view. The people too readily shift the blame on their rulers, who mostly are only the index which points out the state of public morals, while the people are really the moving springs of virtue, or of vice. To secure the benefits of a just and good government, the people must become virtuous, independent, and raised above the selfish and interested motives which too frequently convert this fair world into a scene of contention, and of each preying, or attempting to prey on his neighbour, when every one for himself, and few disinterestedly for the welfare of the public, is the prevailing motive for action. Rulers cannot be more severely blamed than others for following this almost all prevailing motive. Let the people begin the reform in themselves, and rulers will no longer find it their interest to be dishonest. But without laying the basis of public virtue, and of reform on the broad solid foundation of private virtue, there may be a change of rulers, and even a total change of forms, and yet, the inherent defects of vice will remain. For want of laying the foundation in private virtue, and in the gradual enlightening and improvement of the mass of the people, the French rapidly passed through the career of reform and revolution into anarchy, and subsequently into despotism. Enfeebled by the vices of their old government, and by their own vices, they had not strength of principle to support them and restrain them within the due and proper